

Burnham Tavern
Machias, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer

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15 MACH

"BURNHAM TAVERN"

Machias, Washington County, Maine

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Present Owners

Hannah Weston Chapter, D. A. R.

Date of Erection

1770

Builder

Job Burnham

Present Condition

The chimney and the roof have been repaired and the building has been restored largely to its original appearance. A later addition at the rear of the house has been removed. Window sash were replaced.

Description

A two and one half story frame structure with gambrel roof and a central chimney. The house is set on a low stone foundation. There is a central front entrance and hall, with a large front room on each side of the hall. The kitchen extends nearly across the rear of the house. There are panelled walls on the fireplace sides of the two front rooms.

Other Existing Records

History and Description of the house in "The Rubicon" (paper published by Hannah Weston Chapter, D. A. R. July 1961). "Old Colonial Houses in Maine", by Emma Huntington Mason.

Additional Data

The tavern was built as a home and wayside inn and was used as such for some years.

It was in this tavern that a band of volunteers from Machias met and planned the battle which resulted in the capture of the British frigate "The Margarett". This was the first sea battle of the Revolution. After the battle, the wounded soldiers from both sides were taken to the tavern for care. Here in this tavern, Captain Moore of the "Margarett", who had been wounded in the battle, was taken. He died in one of the upper rooms of the tavern.

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About 1787, one of the early Masonic Lodges was formed here and for many years the lodge members met at the tavern. It was called then, "Mason's Arms". Early lodge records are still in the house.

In 1906, Mr. E. B. Curtis and Mr. A. K. Ames, both residents of Machias, conceived the idea of purchasing the tavern for preservation. This accomplished, the tavern was deeded to the Hannah Weston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Joseph J. Tubby
Sept. 23, 1937

JW
10/8/37